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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [PARM](#) [MW](#)

SUBJECT: MONTENEGRO MOVING FORWARD ON DEFENSE AGREEMENTS

REF: A. A) PODGORICA 111

[1](#)B. B) STATE 42063

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[1](#)1. (U) Summary: The Government of Montenegro is moving forward promptly on a number of defense agreements, both bilaterally with the USG, and with NATO. The GoM on April 19 adopted a decision to sign a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) with the U.S., and also agreed to enter into an "Article 98" agreement with the USG by an exchange of diplomatic notes. The GoM has also delivered its Presentation Document to NATO in Brussels, outlining Montenegro's future actions in the Partnership for Peace. The GoM had earlier delivered a letter to the NATO Secretary-General, offering excess small arms and ammunition in

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support of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. On April 19, the GoM informed post that it has also formally endorsed the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. The MFA has additionally signaled its willingness to extend necessary end-use assurances on defense assistance. End summary.

Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)

[1](#)2. The Embassy presented a draft Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, under cover of a diplomatic note, on January 26. Following a single round of negotiations, both Governments agreed on the English text of the agreement. A translation into the official language of Montenegro was provided by the MFA on April 13, with emendations offered by the USG on April 13 and 18, and accepted by the GoM. On April 19, the full cabinet of the Government of Montenegro adopted a decision to sign the SOFA. Formal signing of the agreement is expected in early May.

"Article 98" Agreement

¶3. On April 16, Foreign Minister Rocen told Charge that the GoM would agree to enter into an "Article 98" agreement with the USG (on non-rendition to the International Criminal Court - ICC) by an exchange of diplomatic notes. (Note: This is the course of action preferred by the USG. End note.) The Embassy provided its diplomatic note to the MFA on April 18. The MFA has informed post that it will formally reply to the note on April 20.

NATO Presentation Document

¶4. On April 5, the GoM adopted Montenegro's Partnership for Peace (PfP) Presentation Document outlining the country's cooperation with NATO and emphasizing NATO membership as one of the most significant political and security goals of the country. Foreign Minister Rocen told the press that the process of joining NATO would not slow down but rather accelerate Montenegro's integration into Europe as "the two processes are complimentary and based upon the same values." The Presentation Document was developed in cooperation with NATO International Staff experts.

Support to ISAF

¶5. At the end of February, Defense Minister Boro Vucinic wrote to NATO Secretary-General Jan de Hoop Scheffer, offering to donate some six tons of usable, excess small arms and related ammunition to NATO. The designated purpose was use in Afghanistan to support the efforts of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

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Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism

¶6. On April 16, Foreign Minister Rocen told Charge that the GoM has agreed to endorse the Statement of Principles of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism Statement of Principles, and that it wished participate in the activities of the Global Initiative. The MFA told post on April 19 that it has sent a written communication to that effect to both the U.S. and Russian Embassies in Montenegro.

End Use Assurances

¶7. Assistant Foreign Minister Radulovic noted to poloff on April 4 that she was aware that the GoM would need to extend end-use assurances to the USG before receiving defense assistance, particularly defense articles. Referring to "Section 505" of the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act, she stated the GoM was ready to agree to all such requirements, consistent with

those in ref B. Post will present the MFA with a formal
diplomatic note, seeking its reply, again per ref B.
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